

**The International Institute for Middle-East and Balkan Studies (IFIMES)** in Ljubljana, Slovenia, regularly analyses events in the Middle East and the Balkans. In view of the upcoming elections to the European Parliament (EP) which are to take place on 7 June 2009, IFIMES has carried out an in depth opinion poll. The most relevant and interesting sections from the comprehensive public opinion poll entitled **“No Favourites”** are published below.

## **2009 EP ELECTIONS IN SLOVENIA:**

# **NO FAVOURITES**

## **12 CANDIDATE LISTS TO COMPETE AT EP ELECTIONS**

The second elections for the European Parliament (EP) in Slovenia will be held on 7 June 2009. The elections are based on a proportional electoral system with preferential voting in which the entire country constitutes a single electoral constituency.

There are 1,703,521 eligible voters and 81 candidates from among which seven MEPs will be elected.

The following candidate lists will compete at the elections: • Social Democrats (SD) • Slovenian Democratic Party (SDS) • ZARES — New Policy • Christian Socialists of Slovenia (KSS) • Liberal Democracy of Slovenia (LDS) • Democratic Party of Pensioners of Slovenia (DeSUS) • Slovenian People's Party (SLS) • Youth Party of Slovenia (SMS) • Slovenian National Party (SNS) • New Slovenia (NSi) • Independent list for the rights of patients (NLPB) • United Greens (ZZ)

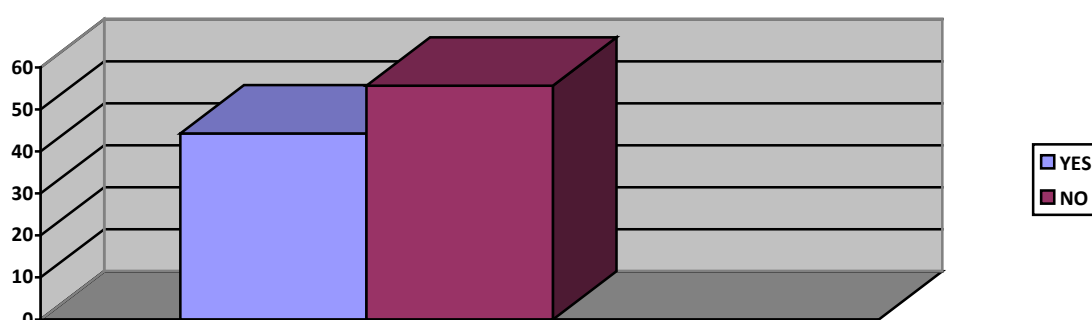
## **PUBLIC OPINION POLL:**

The IFIMES International Institute has conducted a public opinion poll in the form of in-depth interviews of respondents in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia. The poll was carried out during the period from 20 April to 7 May 2009. We used the random three-stage sample of 799 respondents who are the citizens of the Republic of Slovenia in the single electoral constituency according to the proportional system. 387 randomly selected respondents refused to participate in the poll and 201 did not meet the sample rules. The gender, age, social and educational structure of respondents meets the sample rules. There is a substantial balance between the

respondents from urban and non-urban environments. Heads of candidate lists are presumed on the basis of informal announcements published by political parties. The answers to the most relevant and interesting questions are presented below:

### 1. DO YOU FOLLOW THE WORK OF EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS?

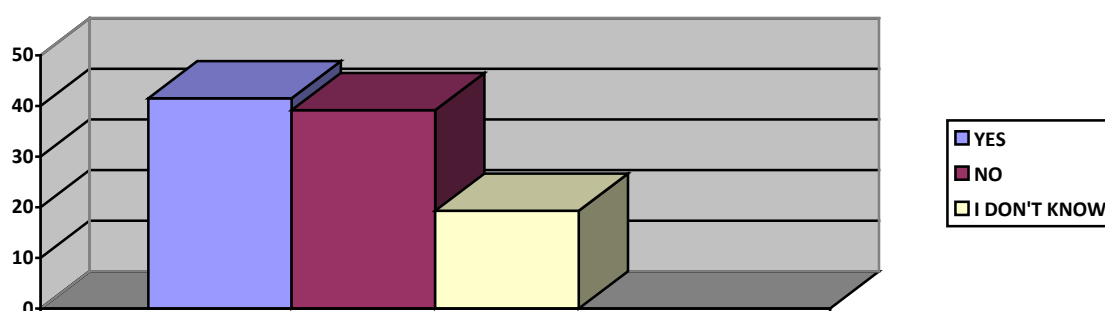
- YES 44,3%
- NO 55,7%



### 2. DO YOU THINK YOU ARE SUFFICIENTLY INFORMED ABOUT THE WORK OF SLOVENIAN MEPs?

2

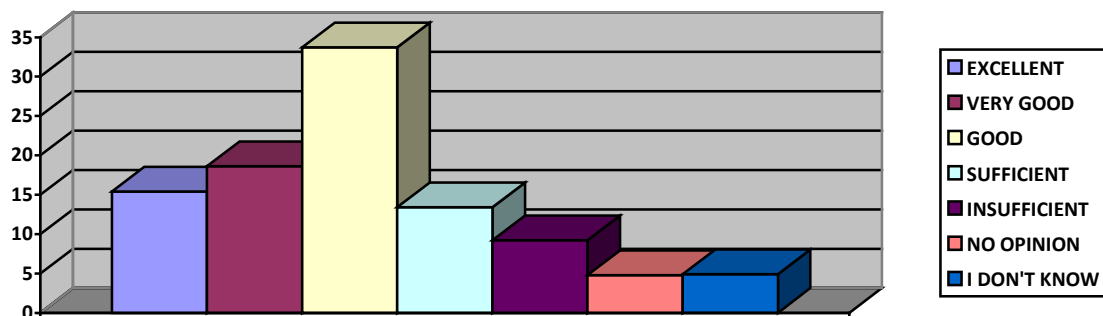
- YES 41,5%
- NO 39,2%
- I DON'T KNOW 19,3%



### 3. HOW WOULD YOU EVALUATE THE WORK CARRIED OUT BY SLOVENIAN MEPs SO FAR?

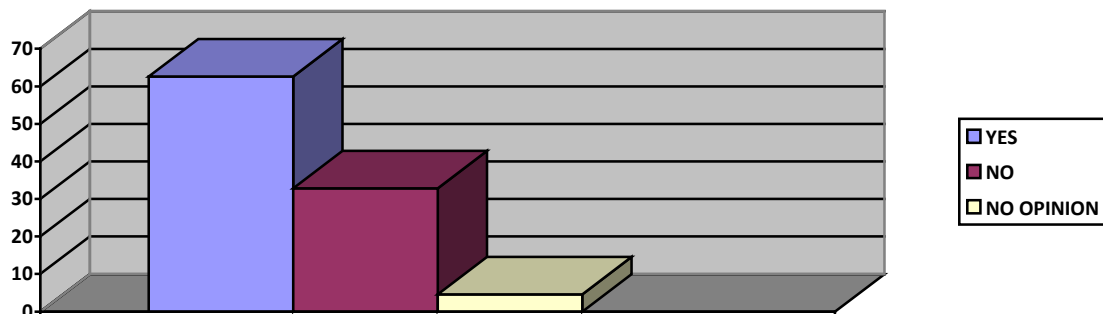
- EXCELLENT 15,4%
- VERY GOOD 18,6%
- GOOD 33,7%

-	SUFFICIENT	13,4%
-	INSUFFICIENT	9,2%
-	NO OPINION	4,8%
-	I DON'T KNOW	4,9%



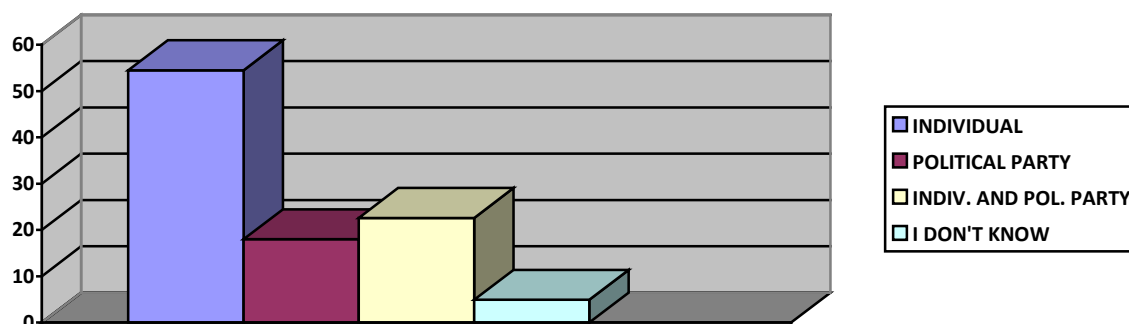
**4. DO YOU THINK THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WILL HAVE AN EVEN MORE IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE NEXT TERM OF OFFICE?**

-	YES	62,6%
-	NO	32,8%
-	NO OPINION	4,6%



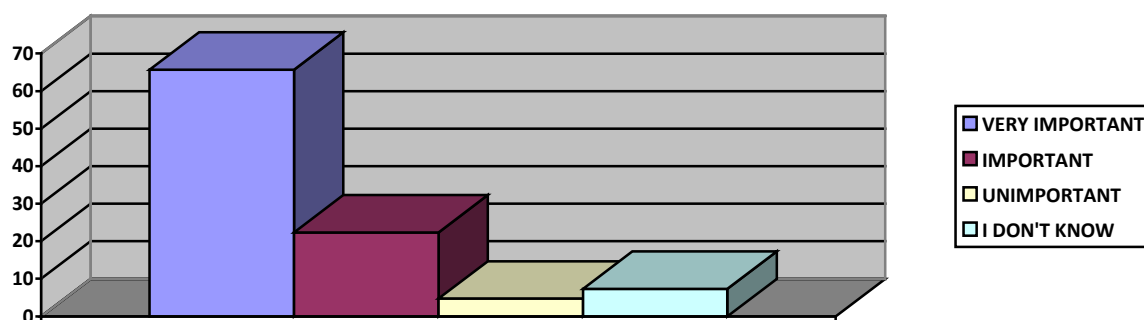
**5. IN OPTING FOR SLOVENIAN MEPs, IS IN YOUR OPINION STRESS LAID ON INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATE OR ADHERENCE TO THE POLITICAL PARTY SUPPORTING THAT CANDIDATE?**

-	INDIVIDUAL	54,5%
-	POLITICAL PARTY	18,0%
-	BOTH INDIVIDUAL AND POLITICAL PARTY	22,6%
-	I DON'T KNOW	4,9%



#### 6. HOW IMPORTANT DO YOU FIND ADVOCATING NATIONAL INTERESTS BY SLOVENIAN MEPs?

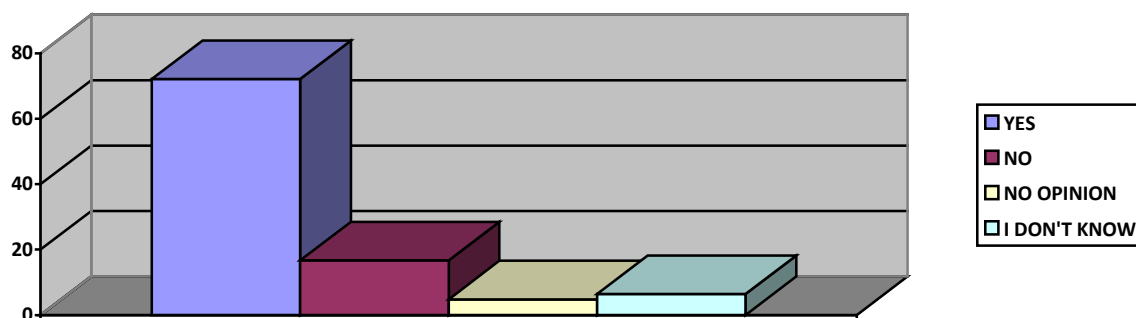
-	VERY IMPORTANT	65,7%
-	IMPORTANT	22,3%
-	UNIMPORTANT	4,7%
-	I DON'T KNOW	7,3%



4

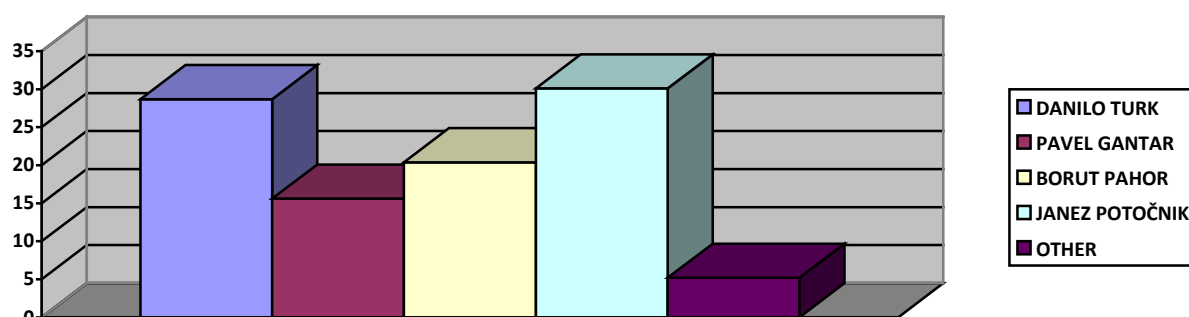
#### 7. WOULD YOU SUPPORT THE RE-ELECTION OF DR. JANEZ POTOČNIK AS EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER ON THE BASIS OF HIS WORK TO DATE?

-	YES	72,1%
-	NO	16,7%
-	NO OPINION	4,8%
-	I DON'T KNOW	6,4%



## 8. WHICH OF THE MAIN REPRESENTATIVES OF SLOVENIA AT HOME AND ABROAD DO YOU TRUST MOST?

-	DANILO TÜRK	28,7%
-	PAVEL GANTAR	15,6%
-	BORUT PAHOR	20,4%
-	JANEZ POTOČNIK	30,1%
-	OTHER	5,2%



5

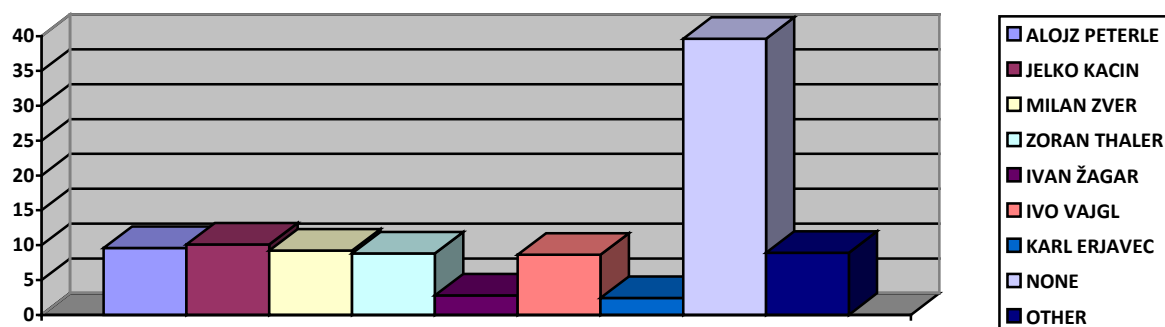
### NOTE:

The opinion poll only included the representatives on the leading positions in the state. In addition to the above such function is also performed by President of the National Council and Chairman of the Constitutional Court.

## 9. WHICH HEAD OF THE CANDIDATE LIST FOR SLOVENIAN MEPs DO YOU TRUST MOST?

-	ALOJZ PETERLE	(NSi)	9,6%
-	JELKO KACIN	(LDS)	10,1%
-	MILAN ZVER	(SDS)	9,2%
-	ZORAN THALER	(SD)	8,8%
-	IVAN ŽAGAR	(SLS)	2,8%

-	IVO VAJGL	(ZARES)	8,6%
-	KARL ERJAVEC	(DeSUS)	2,4%
-	NONE		39,6%
-	OTHER		8,9%

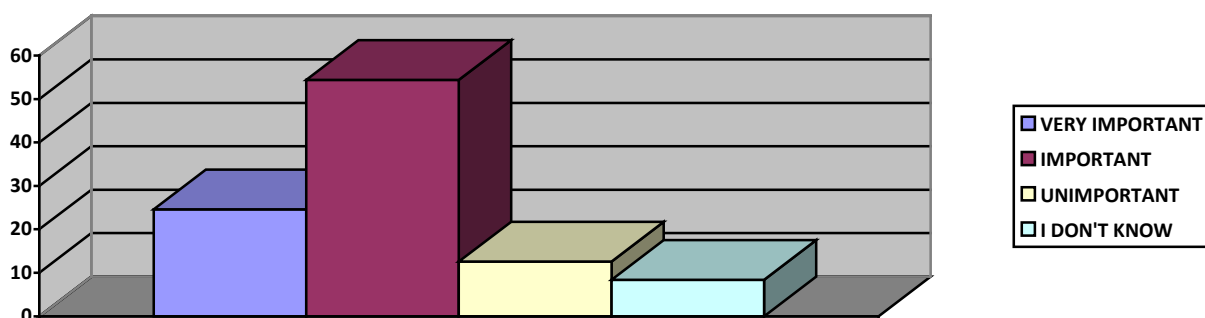


**NOTE:**

The opinion poll does not include Zmago Jelinčič Plemeniti as the possible head of the Slovenian National Party's (SNS) list. There is a difference in the ratio between the candidate list heads and the ratio between political parties.

**10. HOW IMPORTANT DO YOU THINK PREFERENTIAL VOTES ARE FOR EP ELECTIONS?**

-	VERY IMPORTANT	24,6%
-	IMPORTANT	54,4%
-	UNIMPORTANT	12,6%
-	I DON'T KNOW	8,4%

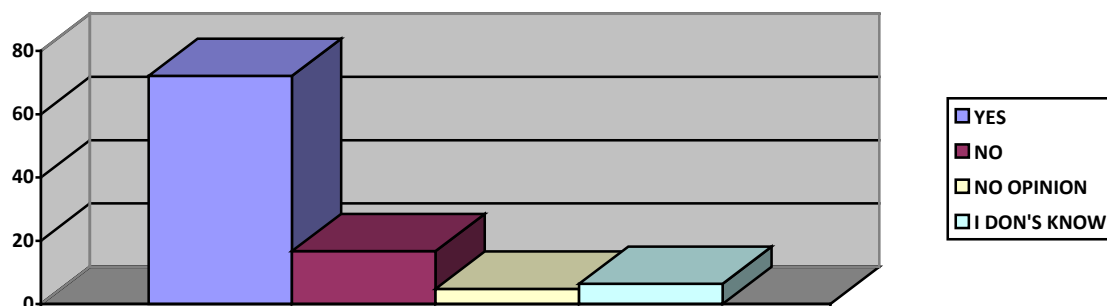


**11. DO YOU AGREE THAT WEST BALKAN STATES SHOULD JOIN EU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE?**

-	YES	67,3%
-	NO	22,5%

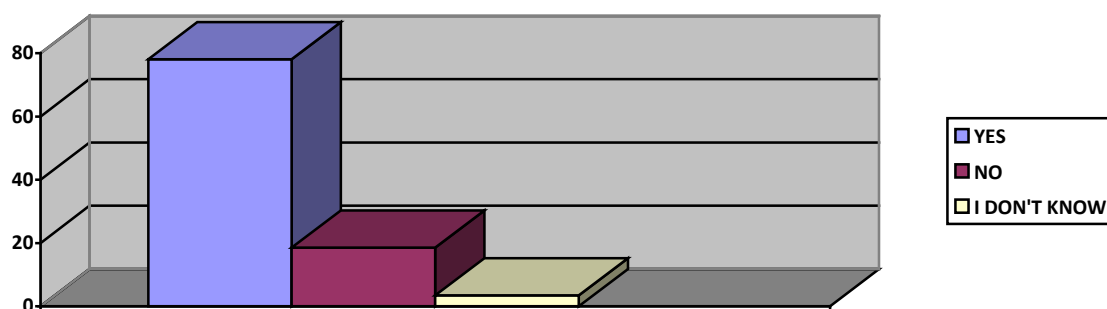


- I DON'T KNOW 10,2%



## 12. DO YOU SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF SLOVENIAN GOVERNMENT TO RESOLVE THE BORDER ISSUE WITH CROATIA?

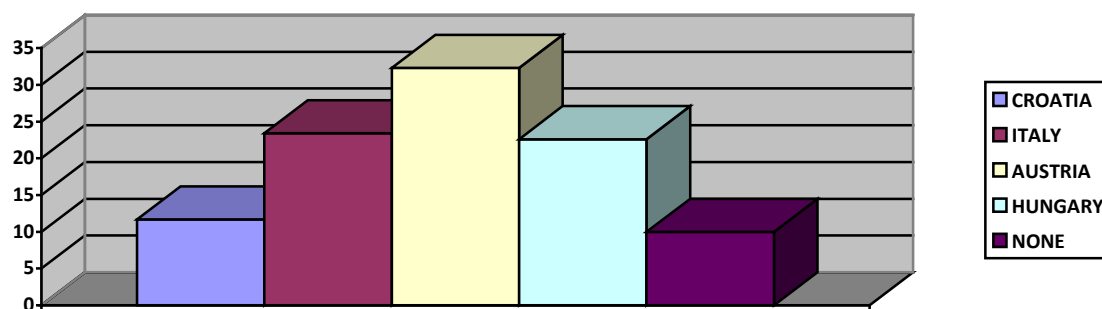
- YES 78,1%  
- NO 18,5%  
- I DON'T KNOW 3,4%



7

## 13. WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRY?

- CROATIA 11,7%  
- ITALY 23,4%  
- AUSTRIA 32,3%  
- HUNGARY 22,6%  
- NONE 10,0%



Analysts have established that there are no favourites for Slovenian elections to the European Parliament and that the heads of candidate lists play an important role. As much as 39.6 % of voters have expressed no trust for any of the candidates, which means that during the election campaign the division of political support may still change in comparison with that established in this public opinion poll.

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8



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1